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ABSTRACT

The results are presented of the second biannual survey of the opinions of the citizens of Nevada about their schools to provide educators and policy makers with information about public concerns. This survey allows for comparison with the views expressed in 1986. A stratified random sample, based on school district population, was selected. Interviews were obtained from 848 Nevada citizens. Demographic information obtained is included. Opinions were solicited about: (1) the quality of public education; (2) curriculum; (3) students; (4) school program characteristics, such as length of school year; (5) school personnel; and (6) funding sources. Most Nevadans still graded their schools average or better, but the overall grade from the public was "C." Nevadans continued to believe that the quality of occupational education needed improvement and that the handicapped and the academically talented deserved more attention. Curriculum concerns included an increased interest in sex education and AIDS education. Teacher salaries were regarded as too low, and a large majority felt that schools were underfunded. Preferences were expressed about acceptable tax sources of revenue. Results should prove useful in shaping responsive educational policy for Nevada. Responses to the 43 questions administered to the respondents are detailed. Eleven bar graphs are provided. (SLD)

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1988 NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

THE OPINIONS OF NEVADA CITIZENS ABOUT THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

compiled by

John Carpenter, PhD, Senior Project Director

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This project was conducted under a grant from
the Nevada Department of Education

by

Survey Research Systems
Post Office Box 2321
Carson City, Nevada 89702

July, 1988

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INTRODUCTION

Nevada's school-age population continues to grow at a rapid pace. The state's public education system is faced daily with new issues and responsibilities. As educators and policy makers rise to meet the challenge of a growing enrollment, the attitudes of Nevada's citizens about their schools become an ever more important component of a planning process that is designed to improve education in Nevada.

This survey sponsored by the Nevada State Department of Education is the second biannual survey of the opinions of Nevada citizens about their schools. The purpose of the survey is to provide state educators, local educators, and policy makers with information about the concerns that Nevada citizens have regarding education in their state. This second survey allows for a comparison between attitudes expressed in 1986 and those expressed in 1988 on important issues facing Nevada education. It also contains new information on attitudes about funding, occupational education, special education, and school personnel.

The results of the survey are informative. Although a majority of Nevadans still graded their schools average or better in 1988, the schools received a grade of C.

Nevadans still believe that the quality of occupational education programs must be improved. They continue to assert that stronger effort be applied to the needs of the handicapped and the academically talented. Nevadans still feel that English, mathematics, history, science, and computer technology are essential subjects in the curriculum. In addition, they feel that AIDS and sex education have become important subjects for students.

According to Nevadans, teacher salaries are still too low; and there are not enough guidance counselors in our schools.

A large majority of Nevadans feel that their public schools are underfunded. To acquire additional funds, a majority of Nevadans would favor an increase in certain taxes, such as the gaming tax, but not in others, such as the property tax.

There are many other important findings in this report. We encourage you to review carefully these results and to use the information to help shape an improved educational plan for Nevada.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Nevada Department of Education commissioned Survey Research Systems (SRS) of Carson City, Nevada to conduct a telephone public opinion survey of Nevada citizens. A stratified random sample, based on school district population, was scientifically selected so that results are valid and reliable. Interviews were obtained from 848 Nevadans. Of the statewide sample, 489 respondents (57.7%) were from Clark County School District, 198 respondents (23.3%) were from Washoe County School District, and 161 respondents (19.0%) were from the remaining school districts in Nevada.

Respondents were asked to provide information on their gender, age, length of residence in Nevada, and the highest level of education in the household. This data, in addition to school district residence, was statistically analyzed to provide information on what effects these variables had on the respondents opinions on the various issues concerning education in the state. Demographic information on the respondents follows on page 18.

The data from the interviews are statistically reliable and opinions can be generalized to the 600,000 Nevada citizens 18 years of age and older. The sampling procedure allows for a confidence level of 98%. That is if the survey were repeated, 98 out of 100 times the results would be virtually the same.

THE FINDINGS

QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Question:

"What grade would you give the public grade schools, the public junior high or middle schools and the public high schools?"

See Figures 1, 2, and 3. The majority of Nevadans rated the quality of the public schools favorably. The public schools received a grade of A or B by 36.0% of the Nevadans polled. A grade of D or F was given by 10.1% of the respondents. The public schools, as they did in 1986, received a grade of A or B by a greater percentage of Rural residents (48.6%) than either residents in Clark (32.4%) or Washoe (35.9%).

Elementary schools received a grade of A or B by 45.0% of Nevadans in 1988, an increase from the 41.4% who gave the same grades in 1986. A grade of D or F was given by 5.7% of the respondents in 1988 as opposed to 5.2% in 1986. As they did in 1986, a higher percentage (55.9%) of Rural Nevadans gave their elementary schools an A or B than either the Clark (42.2%) or Washoe (43.5%) residents.

Junior high schools were graded with an A or B by 33.0% of Nevadans in 1988; down slightly from the 33.9% who did so in 1986. The percentage of respondents who gave a grade of D or F increased slightly from 8.9% in 1986 to 9.1% in 1988. Again, as in 1986, a greater percentage of Rural residents (44.1%) graded the junior high schools with an A or B than did either the Clark (29.8%) or Washoe (31.8%) residents.

The percentage of Nevadans who gave the senior high schools a grade of A or B decreased from 34.4% in 1986 to 29.8% in 1988. A grade of D or F was given by 15.6% of the respondents in 1988 as opposed to 12.8% in 1986. In 1988, a greater percentage of Rural residents (40.4%) graded the senior high schools with an A or B than either the Clark (25.3%) or Washoe (32.3%) residents.

Figure 1.

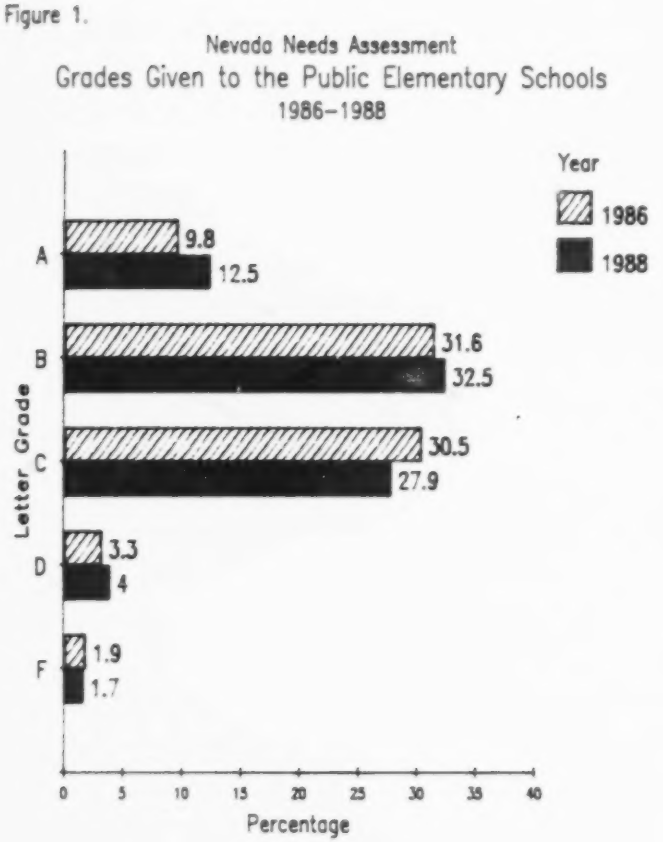


Figure 2.

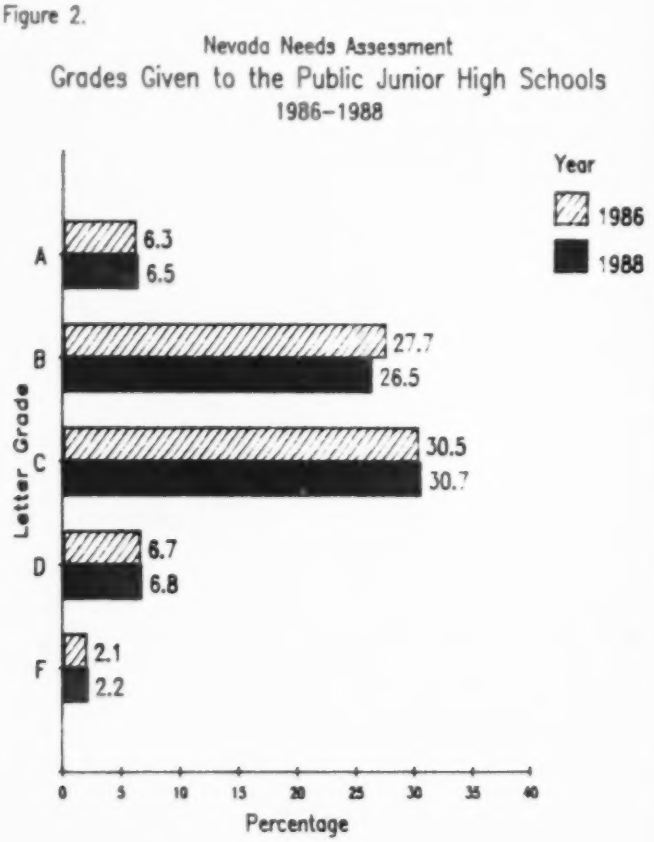
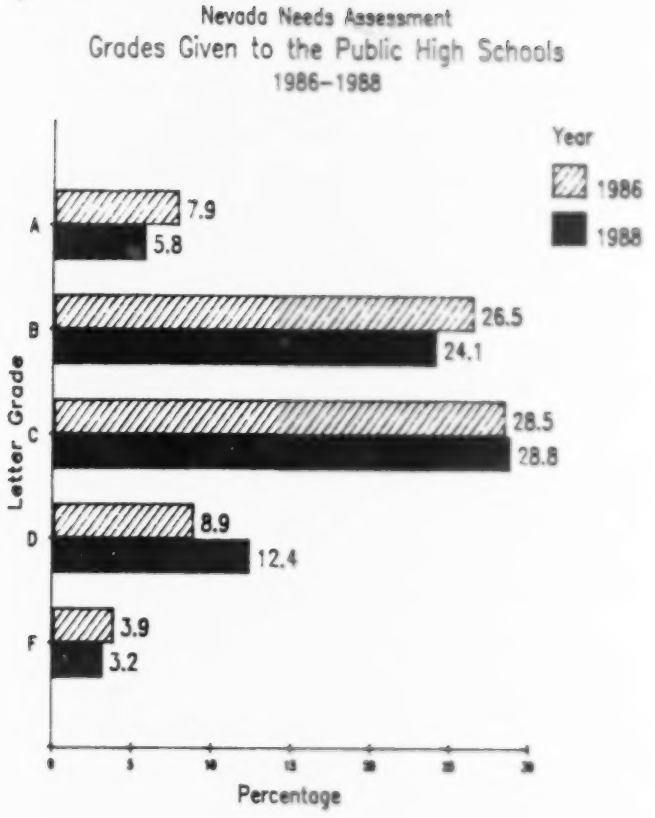


Figure 3.


Nevada Needs Assessment
Grades Given to the Public High Schools
1986–1988
Year
1986
1988
A
7.9
5.8
B
26.5
24.1
C
28.5
28.8
D
8.9
12.4
F
3.9
3.2
Letter Grade
Percentage

Question:

"Would you say that the public grade schools in your community, in the last five years, have improved, stayed the same, or worsened?"

For those Nevadans who have lived in our state for 5 years or longer, the majority (39.9%) voiced the opinion that the public schools in their community have stayed the same over the last five years. Another 27.6% felt that the schools have improved while 16.8% stated their opinion that the schools have worsened.

CURRICULUM

Question:

"If you were going to choose the subjects offered, how would you rate the following in terms of importance for all students? Art, Music, English Grammar and Composition, Foreign Language, Civics and History, Nevada Government, Science, Computer Technology, Occupational Education, Physical Education, AIDS/Sex Education."

Nevada residents strongly believe, as they did in 1986, that basic subject areas are very important to the education of all our public school students. English Grammar and Composition (91.0%), Mathematics (86.7%), Computer Technology (72.3%), Science (69.3%) and Civics and History (62.7%) were rated the highest as very important subjects to be taught to all students. These subjects, with the exception of Civics and History, were the same subjects listed as most important in 1986.

Rated as very important or fairly important subjects to be taught to all students were Occupational Education (91.2%), AIDS/Sex Education (87.7%) and Nevada Government (85.1%). Also rated as important subject areas were Physical Education (77.7%), Foreign Language (75.4%), Music (69.3%) and Art (67.3%).

STUDENTS

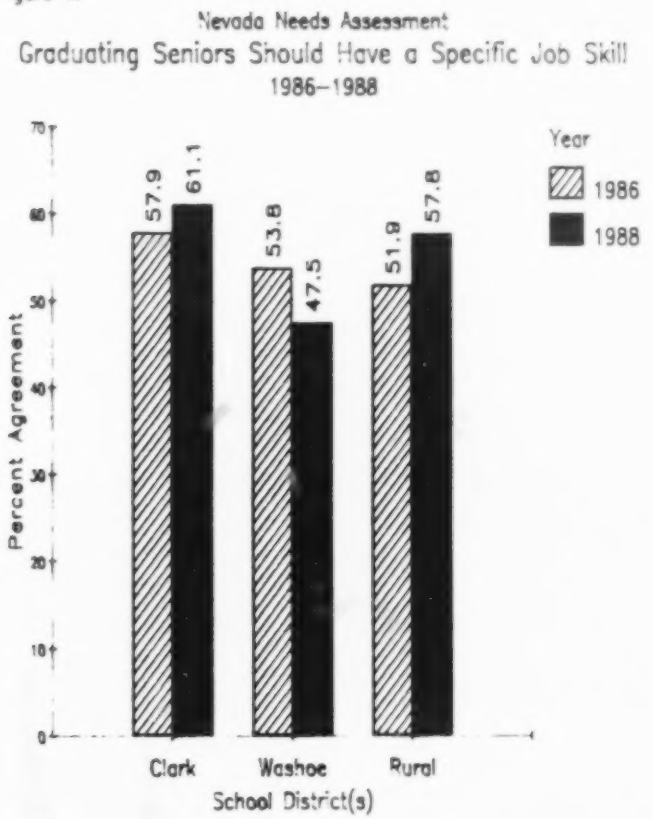
Occupational Education

Statement:

"All students should have a specific job skill before graduating from Nevada high schools."

See Figure 4. Some 57.3% of Nevadans are of the opinion that Nevada public high school students should have a specific job skill upon graduation. A greater percentage of Clark (61.1%) and Rural (57.8%) residents agree with this statement than do Washoe (47.5%) residents. The percentage of agreement with this statement, as it did in 1986, decreased as education level in the household increased. In households where the highest education level attained was a high school diploma or less, 64.6% of the respondents agreed that all students should have a specific job skill before high school graduation. The percentage of agreementin households where a bachelor's or advanced degree was held was 47.5%.

Figure 4.



Statement:

"More importance should be given to occupational training in high school."

A majority of Nevadans, some 76.2%, agreed with this statement. In 1986, 78.6% of the respondents agreed that more importance should be given to occupational training. Of those who agreed with this statement, 58.5% agreed strongly with it. As in 1986, the percentage of agreement decreased as education level in the household increased. For those respondents who lived in households where someone held an associate's degree or less, 83.2% agreed with this statement. In households where someone held a bachelor's or an advanced degree, 66.7% of the respondents agreed.

Exceptional Children

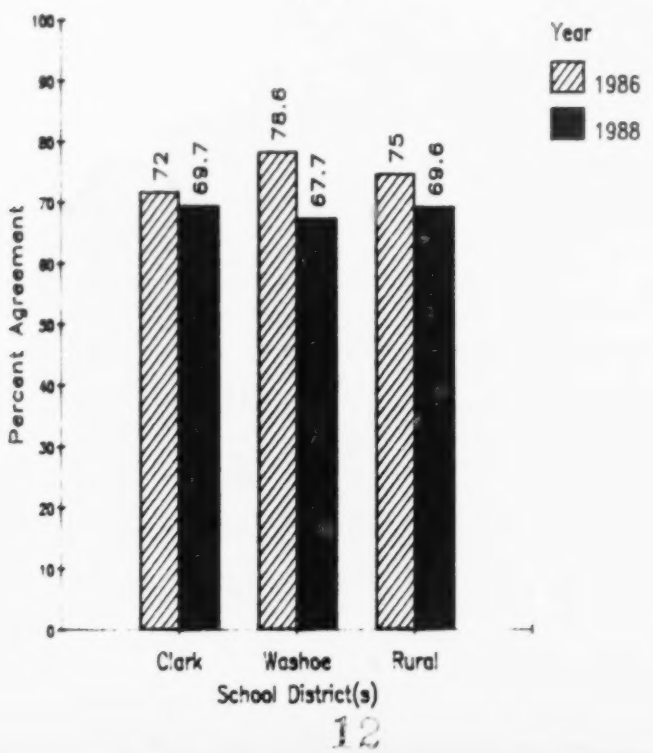
Statement:

"Additional funds should be made available for academically talented students."

See Figure 5. Although a majority of Nevadans continued to agree that additional funds should be made available, the percentage decreased significantly from 74.1% in 1986 to 69.2% in 1988. The percentage of Washoe residents who agreed that additional funds be made available to the academically talented decreased from 78.7% in 1986 to 67.7% in 1988.

Of the 69.7% Clark residents who agreed with this proposition in 1988, 70.7% strongly agreed with it.

Figure 5. Provide Additional Funds for the Academically Talented 1986-1988



Statement:

"There should be sufficient funding to give each handicapped student an education that is appropriate for his/her needs."

A majority of citizens throughout Nevada agreed that sufficient funding should be provided to appropriately educate the handicapped. Of the 89.4% Nevadans who agreed with this statement, 73.1% were in strong agreement.

Statement:

"More emphasis should be given to helping students with handicaps to obtain jobs and adjust to community living."

Some 84.8% of the citizens throughout Nevada agreed that more emphasis should be given to helping handicapped students to obtain jobs and adjust to community living. Among those who agree, 67.5% agree strongly.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

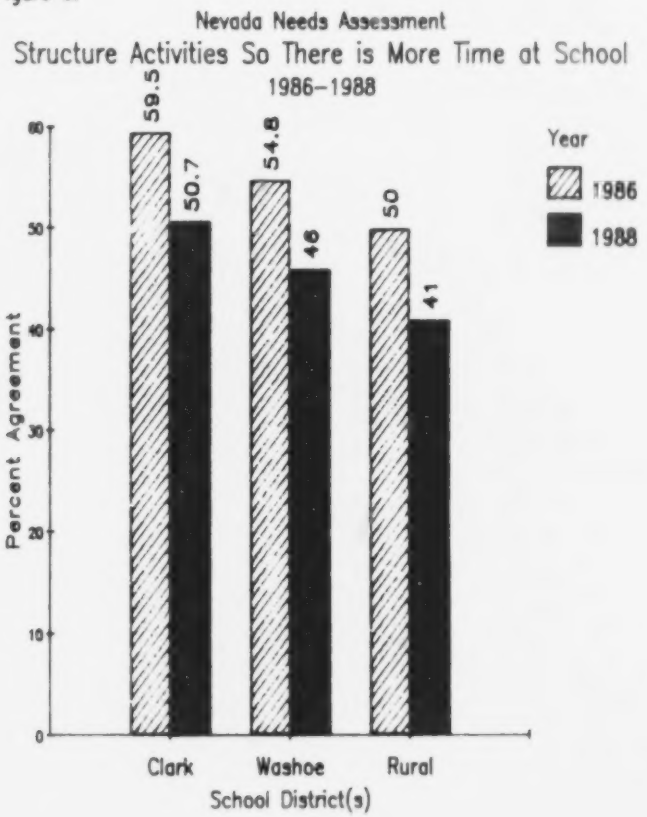
Statement:

"Schools should provide more structured activities so children can spend more time at school."

See Figure 6. The percentage of Nevadans who agreed with this proposition decreased from 56.6% in 1986 to 47.8% in 1988. The percentage of disagreement increased over the same period from 38.5% in 1986 to 43.1% in 1988. As in 1986, more Clark (50.7%) residents agreed with this statement than did Washoe (46.0%) or Rural (41.0%) residents. However, in keeping with other Nevada residents, the percentage of Clark residents who agreed with this proposition decreased (from 59.5% in 1986 to 50.7% in 1988).

Parents (47.0%) who have children in the public schools and grandparents (53.8%) who have grandchildren in the public schools were more in disagreement with this statement than respondents (37.4%) with no children or grandchildren in the schools. This effect was independent of age or length of residence.

Figure 6.

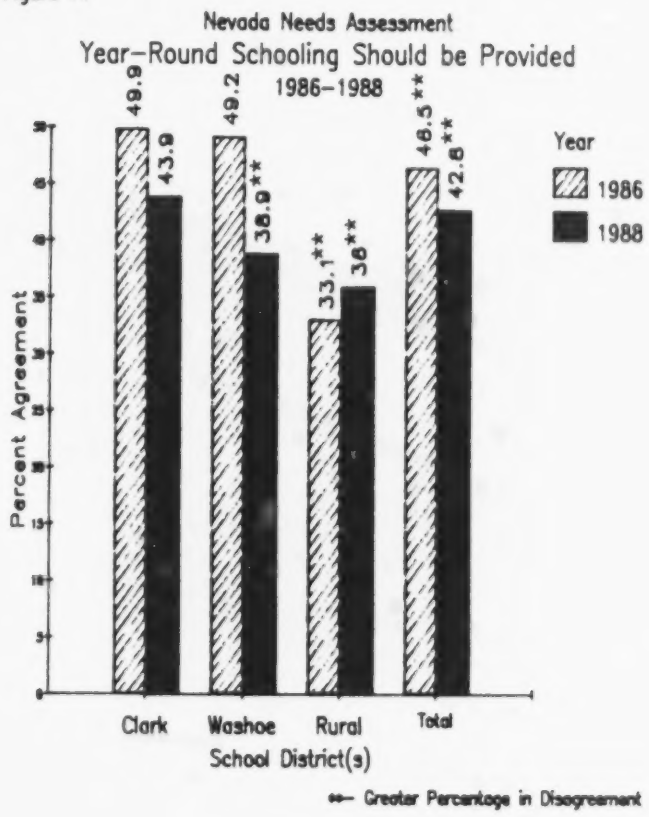


Statement:

"School officials should provide year-round schooling instead of the nine month school year."

See Figure 7. More Rural (54.7%) and Washoe (54.0%) residents disagreed that year-round schooling should be provided than Clark (44.0%) residents. A greater percentage of Washoe residents disagreed (54.0%) than agreed (38.9%) with this statement. This was not so in 1986 where 49.2% of the Washoe respondents agreed and 46.2% disagreed. Although more Clark residents agreed than disagreed with this statement in 1988, the percentage of agreement decreased from 49.9% in 1986 to 46.6% in 1988 while disagreement increased from 43.0% to 44.0%.

Figure 7.



Statement:

"The school program should be expanded from the 180 day school year."

Disagreement with this statement, as in 1986, was greater for Washoe (58.1%) and Rural (59.0%) residents than for Clark (48.4%) residents. Among those Nevadans who disagreed with this statement, 60.2% were in strong disagreement.

Nevadans with children or grandchildren in the public schools (59.6%) disagreed to a greater degree than did Nevadans (46.3%) with no children or grandchildren in school. The percentage of disagreement with this proposition among respondents 40 years of age and younger was 62.0% while for respondents 41 years of age and older it was 48.3%.

Statement:

"Children should start public school at an earlier age, such as 3 or 4."

Nevadans continued to disagree strongly with this proposition. The percentage of disagreement with the idea that children should start school at an earlier age increased from 76.7% in 1986 to 85.0% in 1988. Some 82.9% of those Nevadans who disagreed with this statement, did so strongly.

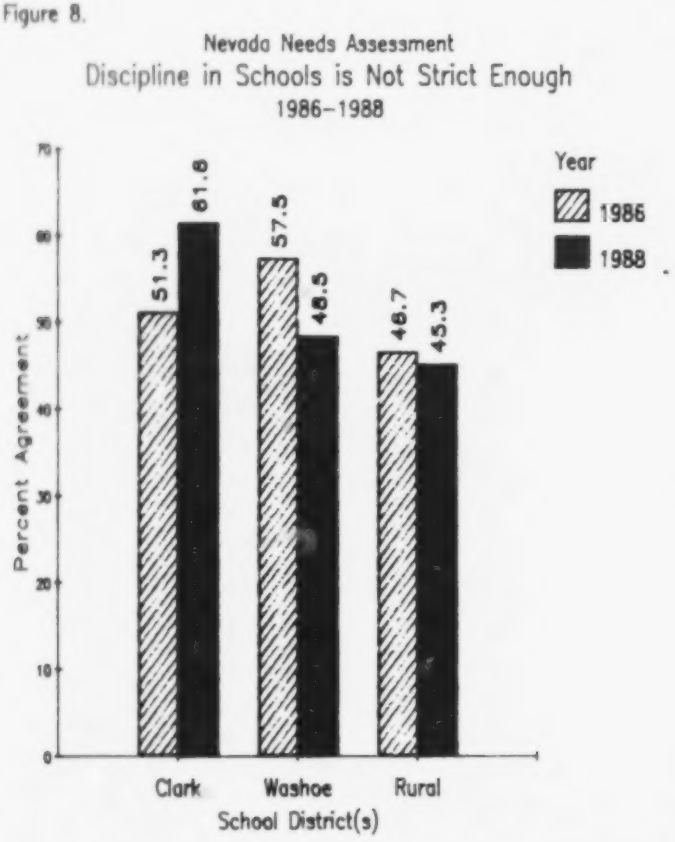
In Clark, the percentage of disagreement with this statement increased from 72.6% in 1986 to 81.6% in 1988. Similarly, the percentage of disagreement increased in Washoe from 79.2% in 1986 to 88.9% in 1988.

Question:

"How do you feel about the discipline in the schools in your county?"

See Figure 8. As in 1986, many Nevadans (55.4%) believe that discipline in the schools is not strict enough. The percentage of Nevadans who were of the opinion that discipline was lax increased as age increased. The percentage of Nevadans who thought discipline was not strict enough increased from 43.1% for respondents 40 years and younger to 61.3% for respondents 41 years and older.

Figure 8.



Question:

"Who should assume more responsibility for increasing discipline in the schools?"

Nevadans targeted parents at 28.7%, teachers at 10.4%, local principles at 5.4% and the family at 3.8% as the ones who should assume more responsibility for increasing discipline in the schools.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Teachers

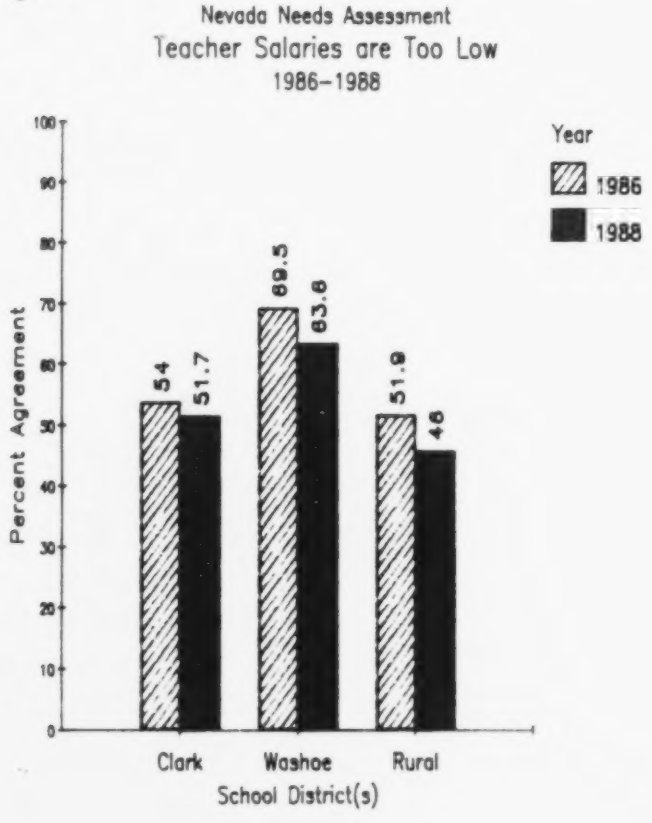
Question:

"The teacher salaries in your county are too high, too low, about right:"?

See Figure 9. As in 1986, Nevadans still are of the opinion that salaries are too low. The percentage of residents who believe that teacher salaries are too low were 51.7% in Clark, 63.6% in Washoe and 46.0% in Rural Nevada. In 1988, 38.4% of the residents in Clark, 31.3% in Washoe and 42.9% in Rural Nevada were of the opinion that teacher salaries are about right.

Some 63.6% of those respondents with children in the public schools, 50.0% of those with no children or grandchildren in the public schools and 44.9% of those with grandchildren in the public schools thought that teachers are underpaid.

Figure 9.



Guidance Counselors

Question:

"Presently, a guidance counselor in Nevada high schools is responsible for about 750 students (in both the elementary and the secondary schools). Do you feel that the ratio is too many students, too few students, about right?"

A large majority of Nevadans (79.0%) agree that there are too many students per guidance counselor in Nevada high schools. Some 10.3% of Nevadans feel the guidance counselor to high school student ratio is about right.

A smaller, but still large, percentage of Nevadans (67.8%) agree that there are too many elementary students per guidance counselor. When compared to high schools, a larger percentage of respondents (19.6%) feel that the elementary student to guidance counselor ratio is about right.

Statement:

"High school students are being given enough counseling about employment and education opportunities after high school."

Some 51.6% of Nevadans disagree with this statement. Of those who disagree with the statement that enough counseling is provided, 68.0% strongly disagree.

The percentage of disagreement with this statement decreased as age increased. Some 66.7% of the individuals 18 to 24 years of age, 61.1% of those 25 to 40 years of age, 58.8% of those 41 to 55 years of age and 36.7% of those 56 years and older disagreed with this proposition. More Nevadans with children in public schools (59.6%) disagreed with this statement than did Nevadans (49.5%) without children or grandchildren in the public schools and those (45.5%) with grandchildren only in the public schools.

FUNDING

Question:

"Do you think Nevada's (k-12) schools are overfunded, underfunded, or funded at the appropriate level"?

Nevadans are of the opinion that our public elementary and secondary schools are underfunded. Some 52.7% of the respondents stated that the schools are underfunded while 23.5% stated that they are funded at the appropriate level and 5.2% stated that they are overfunded.

Some 59.9% of individuals 55 years of age and younger are of the opinion that our schools are underfunded while only 40.7% of

those 56 years of age and over agree that this is true.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Gaming Tax?"

A majority of Nevada citizens (76.5%) would favor an increase in the Gaming Tax. Of those who would favor an increase in the Gaming Tax, 68.4% would strongly favor it. Only 17.4% of the respondents would oppose such an increase.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Sales Tax?"

Some 54.7% of the respondents would oppose an increase in the Sales Tax while 41.7% would favor an increase. Of those opposed to this notion, 69.6% are strongly opposed. Opposition to the idea of an increase in the Sales Tax increased from 49.0% in Washoe to 55.8% in Clark and 58.4% in Rural Nevada.

Fewer individuals (43.5%) with children in the public schools opposed this idea than did those (57.0%) with grandchildren in the public schools and those (59.6%) with no children or grandchildren in the public schools. In fact, a greater percentage of individuals (53.5%) with children in the public schools favored an increase in the Sales Tax than the 43.5% who opposed it.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Property Tax?"

The percentage of Nevadans who would oppose an increase in the Property Tax varied from 50.0% in Washoe to 58.1% in Clark and 59.6% in Rural Nevada. Of those who stated that they are opposed to this type of tax increase, 56.3% in Rural, 76.1% in Clark and 78.8% in Washoe are strongly opposed.

Fewer individuals (43.5%) with children in the public schools are opposed to an increase in the Property Tax than those (59.4%) with no children or grandchildren in the schools and those (65.4%) with grandchildren only in the public schools. In fact, a greater percentage of Nevadans (53.0%) who have children in the public schools favored an increase in the Property Tax than the 43.5% who opposed it.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Liquor & Cigarette Tax?"

A large majority of all Nevadans would favor an increase in this tax. Of the 79.2% respondents who would favor this increase, 78.9% strongly favor it.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Corporate Tax?"

A majority of Nevadans (64.5%) would favor an increase in the Corporate Tax. Of the respondents who would favor an increase in this tax, 58.9% would favor it strongly. An increase in the tax would be opposed by some 27.7% of the respondents.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose an increase in the Entertainment Tax?"

A majority of Nevadans, some 63.9%, would favor an increase in the Entertainment Tax. Another 30.3% of the respondents would oppose such a tax. Of those who would favor an increase in the tax, 55.2% would strongly favor it.

Question:

"Would you favor or oppose the enactment of a state income tax?"

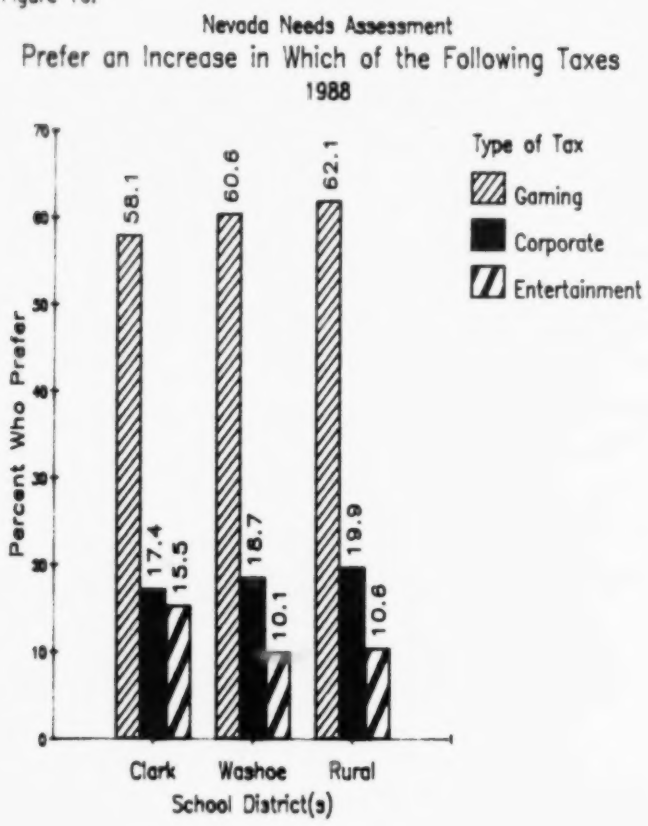
A large majority of Nevadans, some 85.0%, would oppose the enactment of a state income tax. Of those in opposition, 91.0% would oppose such an enactment vigorously. Only 11.3% of the respondents would favor the enactment of a state income tax.

Question:

"Assuming additional monies are needed for public education, K-12, which of the following, gaming tax, corporate tax, or entertainment tax, would you prefer seeing increased?"

See Figure 10. When asked for their preference among the three tax options listed, 59.4% of Nevada residents preferred that the gaming tax be increased, 18.2% preferred the corporate tax and 13.3% preferred the entertainment tax. A small percentage (4.8%) were of the opinion that none of the three taxes should be increased.

Figure 10.

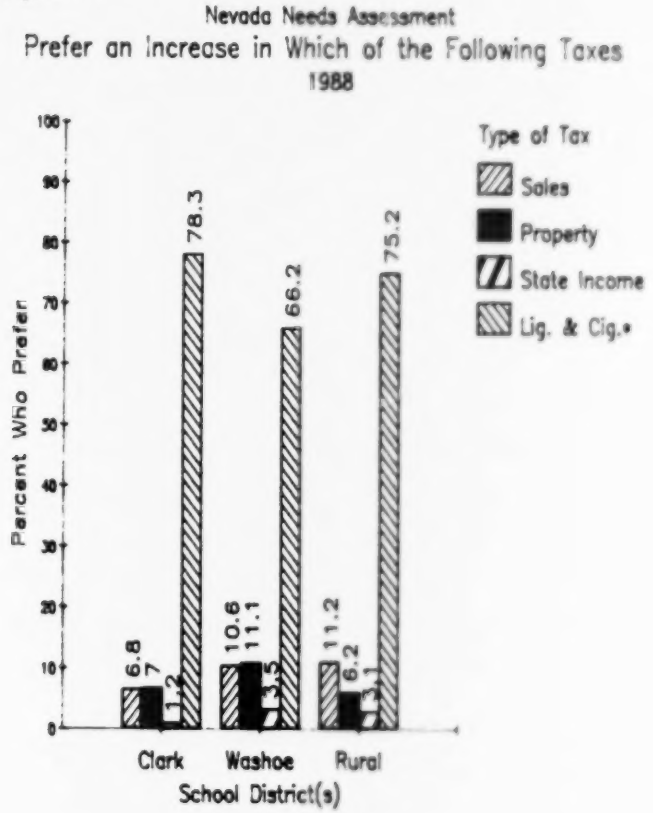


Question:

"Assuming additional monies are needed for public education, K-12, which of the following, sales tax, property tax, income tax, or liquor and cigarette tax, would you prefer seeing increased?"

See Figure 11. When asked for their preference among the four tax options, 74.9% of the respondents preferred that the liquor and cigarette tax be increased, 8.5% preferred the sales tax, 7.8% preferred the property tax and 2.1% preferred the income tax. Another 2.8% of the respondents stated that none of these tax options should be increased.

Figure 11.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Gender:	Female	424
	Male	424
Age:	18-24	63
	25-40	211
	41-55	255
	56+	319
Length of Residence:	-5 yrs.	63
	5-10 yrs.	154
	11-20 yrs.	192
	20+ yrs.	439
Household Education Level:	-h.s.	27
	h.s.	335
	A.A.	126
	B.A./S.	233
	M.A./S.	98
	Doc.	29

1988 NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

1. "All students should have a specific job skill before graduating from Nevada high schools."

1986	1988	
33.8%	33.1%	strongly agree
22.0%	24.2%	somewhat agree
16.4%	13.1%	strongly disagree
25.1%	24.6%	somewhat disagree
2.7%	5.0%	undecided/no opinion

2. "More importance should be given to occupational training in high school."

1986	1988	
56.1%	44.6%	strongly agree
22.5%	31.6%	somewhat agree
6.5%	6.3%	strongly disagree
11.2%	12.6%	somewhat disagree
3.7%	4.9%	undecided/no opinion

3. "Children should start public school at an earlier age -- such as at 3 or 4 years of age."

1986	1988	
11.3%	5.9%	strongly agree
9.3%	6.1%	somewhat agree
63.5%	70.5%	strongly disagree
13.2%	14.5%	somewhat disagree
2.7%	2.9%	undecided/no opinion

4. "The school program should be expanded from the 180 day school year."

1986	1988	
24.6%	22.1%	strongly agree
17.5%	16.4%	somewhat agree
31.2%	31.7%	strongly disagree
19.3%	21.0%	somewhat disagree
7.4%	8.8%	undecided/no opinion

5. "The discipline in the schools in your county is:"

1986	1988	
2.0%	2.0%	too strict
53.8%	55.4%	not strict enough
24.1%	26.8%	just about right
20.1%	15.8%	undecided/no opinion

6. "Since, in your opinion, discipline is not strict enough, who should assume more responsibility for correcting this situation?"

1986	1988	
27.4%	28.7%	parent
10.4%	10.4%	teacher
6.0%	5.4%	local principal
3.5%	2.9%	local school board member
52.7%	52.6%	other (includes nonsequitor)

7. "Additional funds should be made available for academically talented students."

1986	1988	
53.2%	42.4%	strongly agree
20.9%	26.8%	somewhat agree
9.7%	11.1%	strongly disagree
10.9%	13.2%	somewhat disagree
5.3%	6.5%	undecided/no opinion

8. "There should be sufficient funds to give a handicapped student an education appropriate for his needs."

1988	
65.2%	strongly agree
24.2%	somewhat agree
3.6%	strongly disagree
3.1%	somewhat disagree
3.9%	undecided/no opinion

9. "More emphasis should be given to helping handicapped students obtain jobs & adjust to community living."

1988	
57.2%	strongly agree
27.6%	somewhat agree
4.0%	strongly disagree
5.9%	somewhat disagree
5.3%	undecided/no opinion

10. "Schools should provide more structured activities so children can spend more time at school."

1986	1988	
31.9%	22.9%	strongly agree
24.7%	24.9%	somewhat agree
19.6%	21.0%	strongly disagree
18.8%	22.1%	somewhat disagree
5.0%	9.1%	undecided/no opinion

11. "School officials should provide year-round schooling instead of the traditional nine month school year."

1986	1988	
28.8%	26.5%	strongly agree
17.7%	16.3%	somewhat agree
34.4%	33.6%	strongly disagree
12.4%	14.7%	somewhat disagree
6.7%	8.9%	undecided/no opinion

If you were going to choose the subjects offered, how would you rate the following in terms of importance for all students?

12. MATHEMATICS

1986	1988	
90.3%	86.7%	very important
8.6%	12.5%	fairly important
.4%	.4%	not too important
.2%	.1%	not important
.5%	.3%	undecided/no opinion

13. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1986	1988	
29.9%	29.1%	very important
46.6%	48.6%	fairly important
19.4%	18.0%	not too important
3.8%	3.4%	not important at all
.3%	.9%	undecided/no opinion

14. FOREIGN LANGUAGE

1986	1988	
30.5%	29.4%	very important
40.3%	46.0%	fairly important
24.8%	20.5%	not too important
3.7%	3.4%	not important at all
.7%	.7%	undecided/no opinion

15. NEVADA GOVERNMENT

1986	1988	
46.3%	42.6%	very important
37.2%	42.6%	fairly important
12.8%	10.6%	not too important
2.7%	2.5%	not important at all
1.0%	1.7%	undecided/no opinion

16. ENGLISH GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION

1986	1988	
92.7%	91.0%	very important
6.0%	7.3%	fairly important
.8%	1.4%	not too important
.1%	.1%	not important at all
.4%	.2%	undecided/no opinion

17. MUSIC

1986	1988	
13.6%	14.3%	very important
51.8%	55.1%	fairly important
30.0%	25.5%	not too important
3.7%	4.7%	not important at all
.9%	.4%	undecided/no opinion

18. CIVICS & HISTORY

1986	1988	
57.4%	62.7%	very important
36.4%	32.2%	fairly important
4.7%	4.0%	not too important
.9%	.8%	not important at all
.6%	.3%	undecided/no opinion

19. ART

1986	1988	
12.1%	11.7%	very important
51.2%	55.7%	fairly important
32.3%	25.4%	not too important
3.3%	6.1%	not important at all
1.1%	1.1%	undecided/no opinion

20. SCIENCE

1986	1988	
69.1%	69.3%	very important
26.4%	26.3%	fairly important
3.2%	3.8%	not too important
.5%	.4%	not important at all
.8%	.2%	undecided/no opinion

21. OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

1986	1988	
58.5%	53.9%	very important
31.7%	37.3%	fairly important
7.6%	5.9%	not too important
.7%	1.1%	not important at all
1.5%	1.8%	undecided/no opinion

22. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

1986	1988	
69.9%	72.3%	very important
24.5%	22.8%	fairly important
3.5%	3.2%	not too important
.5%	.5%	not important at all
1.6%	1.2%	undecided/no opinion

23. AIDS/SEX EDUCATION

1988	
60.5%	very important
27.2%	fairly important
5.4%	not too important
4.2%	not important at all
2.6%	undecided/no opinion

24. "Presently, a guidance counselor in Nevada high schools is responsible for about 750 students. This ratio is:"

1988	
79.0%	too many students
2.0%	too few students
10.3%	about right
8.7%	undecided/no opinion

25. "Presently, a guidance counselor in Nevada elementary schools is responsible for about 750 students. This ratio is:"

1988	
67.8%	too many students
3.1%	too few students
19.6%	about right
9.5%	undecided/no opinion

26. "High school students are being given enough counseling about employment and education oppurtunities after high school."

1988	
6.4%	strongly agree
11.7%	somewhat agree
35.1%	strongly disagree
16.5%	somewhat disagree
30.3%	undecided/no opinion

27. "The public schools in your community, in the last five years, have:"

1988	
26.5%	improved
16.6%	worsened
38.4%	stayed the same
18.5%	undecided/no opinion

28. "Are Nevada's schools (K-12):"

1988	
23.9%	seriously underfunded
28.8%	somewhat underfunded
23.5%	funded at the appropriate level
3.2%	somewhat overfunded
2.0%	seriously overfunded
18.6%	undecided/no opinion

29. "In Clark County, a starting teacher can earn approximately $17,250, while after ten years, at the bachelor's level, he or she can earn $27,156. In Clark County the teachers' salaries are:"

1986	1988	
2.5%	3.1%	too high
54.0%	51.7%	too low
38.0%	38.4%	just about right
5.5%	6.7%	undecided/no opinion

30. "In Washoe County, a starting teacher can earn approximately $16,900, while after ten years, at the bachelors' level, he or she can earn $27,950. In Washoe County the teachers' salaries are:"

1986	1988	
1.0%	2.0%	too high
69.5%	63.6%	too low
25.4%	31.3%	just about right
4.1%	3.0%	undecided/no opinion

31. "In rural Nevada, a starting teacher can earn approximately $17,620, while after ten years, at the bachelors' level, he or she can earn $29,468. In rural Nevada the teachers' salaries are:"

1986	1988	
1.2%	4.3%	too high
51.9%	46.0%	too low
44.4%	42.9%	just about right
2.5%	6.8%	undecided/no opinion

"Assuming additional funds were needed for public education, K-12, would you favor or oppose an increase in the:?"

32. GAMING TAX

1988	
52.4%	strongly favor
24.2%	somewhat favor
8.7%	strongly oppose
8.7%	somewhat oppose
6.0%	undecided/no opinion

33. SALES TAX

1988	
15.0%	strongly favor
26.7%	somewhat favor
38.1%	strongly oppose
16.6%	somewhat oppose
3.6%	undecided/no opinion

34. PROPERTY TAX

1988	
13.0%	strongly favor
26.2%	somewhat favor
41.0%	strongly oppose
15.4%	somewhat oppose
4.4%	undecided/no opinion

35. LIQUOR & CIGARETTE TAX

1988	
62.5%	strongly favor
16.7%	somewhat favor
11.1%	strongly oppose
6.3%	somewhat oppose
3.4%	undecided/no opinion

36. CORPORATE TAX

1988	
38.0%	strongly favor
26.5%	somewhat favor
18.7%	strongly oppose
9.0%	somewhat oppose
7.8%	undecided/no opinion

37. ENTERTAINMENT TAX

1988	
35.3%	strongly favor
28.7%	somewhat favor
15.9%	strongly oppose
14.4%	somewhat oppose
5.7%	undecided/no opinion

38. "Would you favor or oppose the enactment of a state income tax?"

1988	
3.7%	strongly favor
7.7%	somewhat favor
77.3%	strongly oppose
7.7%	somewhat oppose
3.6%	undecided/no opinion

39. "Assuming additional monies are needed for public education, K-12, which of the following would you prefer seeing increased?"

1988	
59.4%	gaming tax
18.2%	corporate tax
13.3%	entertainment tax
4.2%	none of them
4.9%	undecided/no opinion

40. "Assuming additional monies are needed for public education, K-12, which of the following would you prefer seeing increased?"

1988	
8.5%	sales tax
7.8%	property tax
2.1%	income tax
74.9%	liquor & Cigarette tax
2.8%	none of them
3.9%	undecided/no opinion

Students are often given the grades of "A" for excellent; "B" for above average; "C" for average; "D" for below average and "F" for fail, to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves, in this county, were graded the same way?"

41. "What grade would you give the public grade schools, grades 1 through 6?"

1986	1988	
9.8%	12.5%	A
31.6%	32.5%	B
30.5%	27.9%	C
3.3%	4.0%	D
1.9%	1.7%	F
22.9%	21.4%	undecided/no opinion

42. "What grade would you give the public junior high or middle schools?"

1986	1988	
6.3%	6.5%	A
27.6%	26.5%	B
30.5%	30.7%	C
6.7%	6.8%	D
2.1%	2.2%	F
26.8%	27.3%	undecided/no opinion

43. "What grade would you give the public high schools?"

1986	1988	
7.9%	5.8%	A
26.5%	24.0%	B
28.5%	28.8%	C
8.9%	12.4%	D
3.9%	3.2%	F
24.3%	25.8%	undecided/no opinion